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BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Irene M. Conway Hastilow. M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.

(Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Corporation;  
Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Rural District Council;  
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council;  
School Medical Officer, Essex County Council.)

- and the -

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR and HOUSING OFFICER

E.D. Edwards. C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., R.P.

- for the -

Year Ended 31st December, 1956.



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REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1956.

PREFACE.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Saffron Walden  
Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my 7th Annual Report on  
the health of the Borough of Saffron Walden.

The estimated mid-year population rose from 7240 in  
1955 to 7340 in 1956.

There were 116 births and 158 deaths during the year  
compared with 94 births and 128 deaths in 1955.

On the whole 1956 was a very healthy year. No cases  
occurred of diphtheria, poliomyelitis or food poisoning.

A pilot scheme for vaccination against poliomyelitis  
was brought into operation in the Spring and was very well  
received.

In July the Mass Radiography Unit visited the Borough  
and the report kindly furnished by the Medical Director is  
included in my Report.

I wish to thank the members of the Council, and particul-  
arly the Health Committee, for the encouragement given me  
during the year and the Borough officials for their help and  
assistance. My particular thanks are due to the Borough  
Public Health Inspector, Mr. E.D. Edwards, for his unfailing  
co-operation, and to my Secretary, Miss A.M. Lamb, for her  
ever-willing help and ready response in all emergencies. I  
have also appreciated very much the loyal and most able  
assistance rendered by the Essex County Council Welfare Food/  
Clinic Clerks, Mrs. Ledgerton, Mrs Sharp and Mrs. Cushion.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

IRENE M. CONWAY HASTILOW.

Medical Officer of Health.



BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE OF THE BOROUGH

as on 31st December, 1956.

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Alderman F.W. Goddard (Chairman)

His Worship the Mayor, Alderman Ellis Rooke, M.B.E., J.P.

Councillor G.T. Barnard (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor A. Brereton, B.A.

Councillor Mrs. D.J. Hawkins, J.P.

Councillor F.C. Start.

Councillor E.W. Tanner, J.P.

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PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

Irene M. Conway Hastilow, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,  
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.

Secretary:

Miss. A.M. Lamb.

Borough Public Health Inspector:

E.D. Edwards, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., R.P.

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Public Health Department;  
69, High Street,  
Saffron Walden,  
Essex.



SECTION A - Statistics and social conditions of the Borough.

Area: 7,502 acres.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of  
resident population mid-year 1956): 7,340

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956)  
according to Rate Books : 2,505

Rateable Value: (April 1st, 1956). £106,817

Sum represented by Penny Rate (Year ended 31.3.56): £202.0.10d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

(corrections being made for inward and outward transfers)

	Total	Male	Female	
LIVE BIRTHS: Total :	113			)Birth Rate per 1000
Legitimate :		47	61	)of the estimated
Illegitimate :		3	2	)population: 15.9
STILL BIRTHS: Total :	3			
Legitimate :		2	1	
Illegitimate :		-	-	
DEATHS : Total :	158	79	79	)Death Rate per 1000
				of the estimated
				population: 21.5

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1956

(Figures in brackets refer to 1955).

<u>Cause of Death.</u>	Male.	Female.
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	0 (0)	0 (1)
2. Tuberculosis, other	0 (0)	0 (0)
3. Syphilitic Disease	0 (2)	0 (0)
4. Diphtheria	0 (0)	0 (0)
5. Whooping Cough	0 (0)	0 (0)
6. Meningococcal Infections	1 (0)	0 (0)
7. Acute poliomyelitis	0 (1)	0 (0)
8. Measles	0 (0)	0 (0)
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0 (0)	0 (0)
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3 (0)	2 (2)
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4 (3)	0 (0)
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0 (0)	3 (3)







	Male	Female
13. Malignant neoplasm uterus	0 (0)	0 (1)
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	10 (9)	2 (3)
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1 (0)	0 (3)
16. Diabetes	0 (1)	2 (1)
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	10 (8)	11 (10)
18. Coronary disease, angina	4 (8)	3 (4)
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1 (0)	0 (0)
20. Other heart disease	10 (9)	17 (12)
21. Other circulatory disease	2 (4)	2 (1)
22. Influenza.	7 (6)	9 (1)
23. Pneumonia	2 (0)	5 (1)
24. Bronchitis	4 (5)	7 (2)
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	1 (0)	0 (0)
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2 (0)	1 (0)
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	0 (0)	1 (0)
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	0 (3)	0 (0)
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3 (1)	0 (0)
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	0 (0)	0 (0)
31. Congenital malformations	0 (0)	0 (0)
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	14 (7)	13 (12)
33. Motor vehicle accidents	0 (0)	1 (0)
34. All other accidents	0 (1)	0 (1)
35. Suicide	0 (0)	0 (1)
36. Homicide and operations of war	0 (1)	0 (0)

Deaths from puerperal causes :-

From puerperal sepsis.	0	
From other puerperal causes:	0	Total : 0

	M.	F.
Deaths of Infants under one year of age: (Legitimate)	2	2
(Illegitimate)	-	-
	Total 4.	

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age: (Legitimate)	1	1
(Illegitimate)	-	-
	Total 2.	

All infants per 1,000 live births: 35.3

There was no excessive mortality from any particular disease during the year.



## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during the year 1956 :

	1956.	1955.
Measles .. .. .	1	86
Whooping Cough .. .. .	1	-
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	4	1
Erysipelas .. .. .	4	2
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic .. .. .	-	8
(Non-paralytic .. .. .	-	5
Virus Encephalitis .. .. .	1	-

### Diphtheria:

For the seventh year running no cases of diphtheria were notified in the Borough.

### Poliomyelitis:

No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during 1956.

### Food Poisoning Outbreaks:

No outbreaks of food poisoning occurred during the year.

### Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases:

No serious outbreaks occurred during the year.

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### Tuberculosis.

### New cases notified and mortality during 1956:

Notifications: Three cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year and three cases moved into the Borough. (In 1955 one case was notified and two cases moved into the Borough).

Deaths: Nil (One death occurred in 1955).



The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Borough in July, 1956 and the following report has been received from the Medical Director :-

Results of Mass Radiography Survey - Saffron Walden  
July 9th - 25th, 1956.

<u>Number attended for X-Ray.</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total.</u>
General Public and small firms ...	1030	829	1859
School children ... ..	334	259	593
School staff - Teaching ... ..	33	27	60
Domestic ... ..	9	34	43
Expectant Mothers ... ..	-	1	1
Doctors' Requests ... ..	5	7	12
Contacts ... ..	3	4	7
Hospital and Nursing Staff ...	3	22	25
Teachers' Training College - Students	-	71	71
Staff	1	27	28
Old People's Home ... ..	11	12	23
TOTAL	1429	1293	2722

Number X-rayed for the 1st time. ...	902	891	1793
Number recalled for full size films	48	41	89
% recall	3.2		
Defaulters (mainly on holiday) ...	2	5	7

Attendance by Age Groups

Under 14 yrs. ... ..	9	21	30
14 - 34 yrs. ... ..	783	774	1557
35 - 54 yrs. ... ..	451	343	794
55 and over ... ..	186	155	341

ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS.

A. Non- Tuberculous Conditions

1. Congenital anomalies of the bony thorax	12	18	30
2. Azygos lobe vein ... ..	6	2	8
3. Chronic bronchitis ... ..	5	6	11
4. Bronchiectasis ... ..	1	2	3





	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
5. Pleural thickening and fibrosis from previous pneumonia and/or pleurisy ... ..	22	6	28
6. Congenital cardiac conditions	-	1	1
7. Acquired do do	6	12	18
8. Spontaneous pneumothorax ...	1	-	1
9. Megaoesophagus ... ..	1	-	1
10. Diaphragmatic eventration ...	1	-	1
11. Mastectomy ... ..	-	1	1
12. Previous lobectomy for benign neoplasm	1	-	1
13. Brochial carcinoma ... ..	2	-	2

#### B. Tuberculous Conditions.

1. Healed primary or other calcified lesions requiring no further action. ... ..	19	14	33
2. Previously diagnosed tuberculosis already under supervision ...	2	3	5
3. Newly discovered significant tuberculosis requiring -			
a. treatment	1	2	3
b. close supervision at Clinic	4	-	4

#### COMMENT:

A total of 7 persons were found with significant tuberculosis making an all-over prevalence of 12 cases per 2,722 examined with significant disease. Of the three requiring treatment, two were sputum positive, two were new attenders for x-ray, the third having been clear at a previous examination. The two women were both under 25, but the male case was over 55. Four other men referred for observation had not previously attended the Unit, and the oldest was 48.

A noticeable feature of the results was the large number of cardiovascular conditions observed, and one person actually attended with well-marked evidence of heart-failure. Two cases of bronchial carcinoma were also brought to light as the result of mass radiography.

Allowing for children under 14 who did not attend, the disabled, infirm, sick, and those away on holiday, the total





number of examinations carried out was reasonably satisfactory for the time allotted. Saffron Walden produced a very high proportion of new attendances at the Unit (viz 1793 out of 2772) and this is considered to be more worth-while than simply going over old ground and re-x-raying those who had previously been checked. Among these new attenders were found 2 of the cases of active tuberculosis and 4 of the persons requiring close observation. Both cases of carcinoma were also first attenders at the Unit, so that the main bulk of important findings was among those who had not attended previously for mass x-ray.

It will be seen from the age-group analysis that the main drive of the Unit is directed towards the age- group 14 - 34 yrs in which two of the active cases were discovered. While it is fully recognised that elderly males are particularly worth-while getting to the Unit - owing to the propensity to breakdown of previously inert tuberculous lesions in older men - they are particularly difficult to attract to units except at works or factories where they attend better with organized groups of fellow-workers, than if left to volunteer on their own or with their families. This tendency has been particularly noticeable at community surveys where the "head of the house" is often the only defaulter in a big family, and requires much individual persuasion before he will attend. It can be seen, for instance, that only 10% of those attending the Unit at Saffron Walden were over 55 - yet among them was one sputum-positive case.

No doubt an older generation prefers the established procedure of reporting to their doctors with symptoms rather than troubling themselves to attend when they feel quite well, and it is perhaps neither wise nor kind to badger those whose best years of health and strength are over to do so. Older people clearly recognize the value of early discovery of some trouble in young persons, but their experience of life makes them less ready to accept the possibility of a successful outcome of treatment in their own case, and they prefer not to face up to this until they are forced to do so. Most general practitioners are aware of this attitude. Without individual persuasion from their own family doctor, these persons will never attend for mass x-ray in large numbers, unless some form of compulsion is used.

At this survey considerable encouragement and assistance was given by Dr. Hastilow, the Medical Officer of Health, particularly with preliminary arrangements and advance publicity, and the Unit was advised and helped in the x-raying of school children by Dr. Miller Wood - the Divisional Schools Medical Officer of Health - who also supported the Unit at advance meetings. For this help the Unit is very grateful and it is desired also to thank the Mayor and members of the Council



and County Councillors for their interest and attendance at meetings and for the loan of the Town Hall for an advance publicity meeting.

To all other voluntary workers who helped the Unit, especially the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the Red Cross, the W.V.S. and the Press, the Unit Director would like to express very sincere and warm appreciation.

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## SECTION B - General provision of Health Services for the Borough.

Laboratory Service - Bacteriological Service. The District is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities - A day and night ambulance service is provided by the Essex County Council. The ambulance station is at Saffron Walden and is on the telephone, but as the driver and attendant may be away from the station answering a call, persons requiring an ambulance are advised to dial '999' and ask for an ambulance. Where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person such as a duly authorised officer of the Mental Health Service.

## SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery - These services are carried out by the Home Nurse/Midwives resident in the Borough.

Domiciliary Visiting by Health Visitors - Two Health Visitors work in the Borough.

Domestic Help Service - Applications for domestic help should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex Division, 75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

Care of Expectant Mothers - An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday afternoon in each month at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden.





Care of Children up to school age - Child Welfare sessions are held at Saffron Walden every Friday afternoon. Children are immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough at the Minor Ailment Clinics. Vaccinations are not carried out at the clinics as a routine but are performed by the family doctor.

Care of School Children - Regular School Medical Inspections are carried out at all schools. Children are immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough with the consent of their parents.

### HOSPITALS.

The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Boards and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve the Saffron Walden population are those in Saffron Walden, Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. Cases of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care are admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospitals at Cambridge, Newmarket and Bishop's Stortford.

Chest Clinics are available for the population of the Borough. There is one at Saffron Walden General Hospital and one at Castle Hill, Cambridge.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases is provided at the Clinic at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at the Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948. Section 47.

It was not necessary to take statutory action under this Section during 1956.

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### SECTION C - Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. T.W. Cloughton) for the following report :-

#### Drainage and Sewage Disposal.

A further year has passed when no major works have been found necessary in order to maintain the system of drainage and sewage disposal in good working order.

Again it can be said that the standard of sewage effluent





at the disposal works compares favourably with that of the past 5 to 6 years.

### Swimming Bath.

The purification and heating plant has continued to operate satisfactorily and a high standard of purity has been maintained in the pool.

### Water Supply.

A new 3" diameter main has been laid from The Fox Public House at Swards End to the Borough Boundary on the Radwinter Road, serving the various properties en route.

Throughout the district the standard of water has been preserved at a very high level.

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## ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Labelled - Tap direct from main supply at the Municipal Offices,  
Saffron Walden. Source initially from bore in chalk.

### Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

Appearance: Bright with a few mineral particles.

Turbidity: Less than 3.

Colour ..... Nil. Odour .. very faint chlorinous.

pH ..... 7.1. Free Carbon Dioxide ..... 32

Electric Conductivity .... 600 Total Solids ..... 400

Chlorine present as

Chloride .. 22. Alkalinity as Calcium  
Carbonate . 280

Hardness. Total ..... 190.

Carbonate 190)

Non-carbonate 0)

Nitrate Nitrogen ..... 4.6. Nitrite Nitrogen ..... absent.

Ammoniacal Nitrogen .... 0.000. Oxygen Absorbed ..... 0.10.

Albuminoid Nitrogen .... 0.000. Residual Chlorine ..... 0.06.

Metals Iron: 0.03, other metals absent.

### Bacteriological Results.

	( 1 day at ( 37°C.	2 days at 37°C.	3 days at 20°C.
Number of Colonies developing on Agar	( ... per ml.	... per ml.	... per ml.
	Present in	Absent from	Probable No.
Presumptive Coli-aerogenes Reaction	... ml.	... ml.	...per 100 ml.
Bact.coli.(Type I)	... ml.	... ml.	...per 100 ml.
Cl. welchii Reaction	... ml.	... ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The hardness of the water is moderate and contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results are indicative of a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes. The results show that the hardness has been substantially reduced by the base-exchange process; a lower content of free carbon dioxide would be preferable from the aspect of avoiding corrosive tendencies.



R E P O R T  
of the  
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
For the Year 1956.



REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
FOR THE YEAR 1956

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Saffron  
Walden Borough Council.

Mr Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege and pleasure to submit this my second annual report for the year 1956, which is also the first report under the new designation of Public Health Inspector.

It is with some personal regret that the designation of Sanitary Inspector is no longer officially used. It has been my experience with this and other local authorities, when introducing myself under the old designation, to receive the attention and co-operation of the persons of all classes I come into contact in the course of my official duties. As one of the younger inspectors I owe much to the Sanitary Inspectors who went before for the goodwill they have created.

The new Food Hygiene Regulations came into operation during the year and are to be welcomed as a means of raising the standard of food hygiene in this country. Many authorities and bodies consider the Regulations are not sufficiently stringent but when examining Public Health and other legislation it would appear that legal standards are raised slowly but surely over the years. The Food Hygiene Regulations can be regarded as a large step in the right direction.

As is mentioned elsewhere the work as Housing Officer continued to take up a substantial proportion of my time, particularly time spent in the office dealing with enquiries and queries from Council house tenants and applicants. I am very pleased indeed to carry out this duty as the re-housing of needy families can be largely regarded as a matter of direct concern to public health. My only regret is that more time could not be spent on work of a routine nature such as the frequent inspection of food premises, shops and factories.

My thanks are due once again to all members of the





Council, particularly the Public Health and Housing Committees, for their interest in my work and the pleasant relationship enjoyed.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E.D. Edwards,

Public Health Inspector and  
Housing Officer



## WATER SUPPLIES and WATER SAMPLES.

### Main Supplies.

Frequent routine bacteriological samples of the mains water were taken at points in and outside the Town, all samples were satisfactory except for a series of samples taken at Swards End. Contamination was found to be present after a new section of water main was put into use and was probably due to extraneous matter entering the pipes when laid or from the jointing material. The main was flushed out several times and the rate of chlorination increased resulting in a sharp decline in the number of bacteria present. It was several weeks, however, before the supply at Swards End reached the recognised standard for chlorinated water.

Samples were also submitted for chemical analysis and were highly satisfactory.

### Other Supplies.

Waters from three wells were examined and were unsatisfactory in one instance. The well in question was only ten feet in depth and as a main supply was not readily available the Owner attempted to improve the well. Further samples showed that there was no reduction in the bacteria present and the Owner agreed to provide a main supply. Arrangements are in hand for this to be carried out and will entail laying some 225 yards of supply pipe and also taking the pipe across the River Cam.

### Municipal Swimming Pool.

All samples taken were satisfactory.

### Summary of Bacteriological Samples Taken

<u>Source.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Main supply - Town Area.	16	16	Nil
Main supply - Swards End.	37	23	14
Main supply - Audley End Village.	7	7	Nil
Main supply - Little Walden.	10	10	Nil
Municipal Swimming Pool.	4	4	Nil
Well supplies.	8	2	6

(all from One well)



## PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

### Section 83. (Filthy or verminous premises)

One Council house was found to be infested with bugs when vacated and was disinfested.

### Section 92. (Nuisances).

A total of 70 complaints were received during the year of alleged insanitary and other conditions, when investigated 49 complaints were found to be justified and warrant action.

As a result of routine inspections and complaints 46 nuisances were found to exist and 48 informal notices were served requiring abatement of nuisance.

One Statutory Notice was served and legal proceedings were later taken to secure enforcement of same, the hearing of the case was adjourned and the notice was complied with soon after.

During the year 46 informal notices served under this Section were complied with.

A summary of defects remedied is appended.

### Section 167. (Disinfection of premises, articles etc).

Arising out of various cases of infectious disease it was necessary to carry out 5 disinfections of rooms and articles therein. 13 visits were made in connection with infectious diseases.

### Section 269. (Control of moveable dwellings).

18 inspections were made of moveable dwellings and their sites which were found to be maintained in a hygienic and proper manner. All dwellings were modern trailer type caravans.

6 dwellings and 6 sites were licenced during the year.





## THE HOUSING ACTS.

### Repair of Dwellings.

Action to secure the repair of dwellinghouses was generally taken under the nuisance sections of the Public Health Acts as being the more suitable for ensuring the carrying out of essential repairs.

The power under the Housing Act, 1936, to secure that dwellings are made fit takes into account many matters and allows a high standard to be attained but, in considering action, it is necessary to decide whether the house in question is repairable at reasonable expense. With the ever-increasing gap between the income from rented houses and the high cost of repairs it is difficult in many cases to fairly decide that cost of repair of the older house can be regarded as reasonable. The alternative in such cases is to take steps to secure the demolition or the closure of the house.

However, with the possibility that rents are to be raised to a level more in keeping with the present day value of money, it is to be hoped that more extensive action will be taken under the Housing Acts to secure a high standard of repair. Such action cannot be too soon as with many houses receiving only minor repairs which do not adequately stop decay there are a large number of houses approaching the state where they will soon be fit for demolition only.

1 formal and 3 informal notices were served, 19 informal notices dating generally from 1955 were complied with.

### Demolition, closure etc., of unfit houses.

36 individual houses were reported to the Council as unfit and action was taken in all instances except two and



was as follows :-

		<u>Persons displaced.</u>
Demolition Orders made (4 houses were demolished)	10	8
Closing Orders made	17	13
Closing Orders - part of houses	1	4
Formal undertakings accepted to repair houses	3	9
Informal undertakings not to re-let houses when vacant	3	Nil
Informal undertakings not to re-let houses and to demolish when vacant.	4	3
	<hr/>	
TOTAL	38	
	<hr/>	

Further to the making of these Demolition and Closing Orders, several Owners submitted proposals to make certain houses fit for habitation. These proposals together with the undertakings to repair will ensure that, of the houses listed above, 12 units of accommodation will be put into use again. In several cases two houses were converted to one house which, together with extensive modernisation, will produce accommodation of a very high standard.

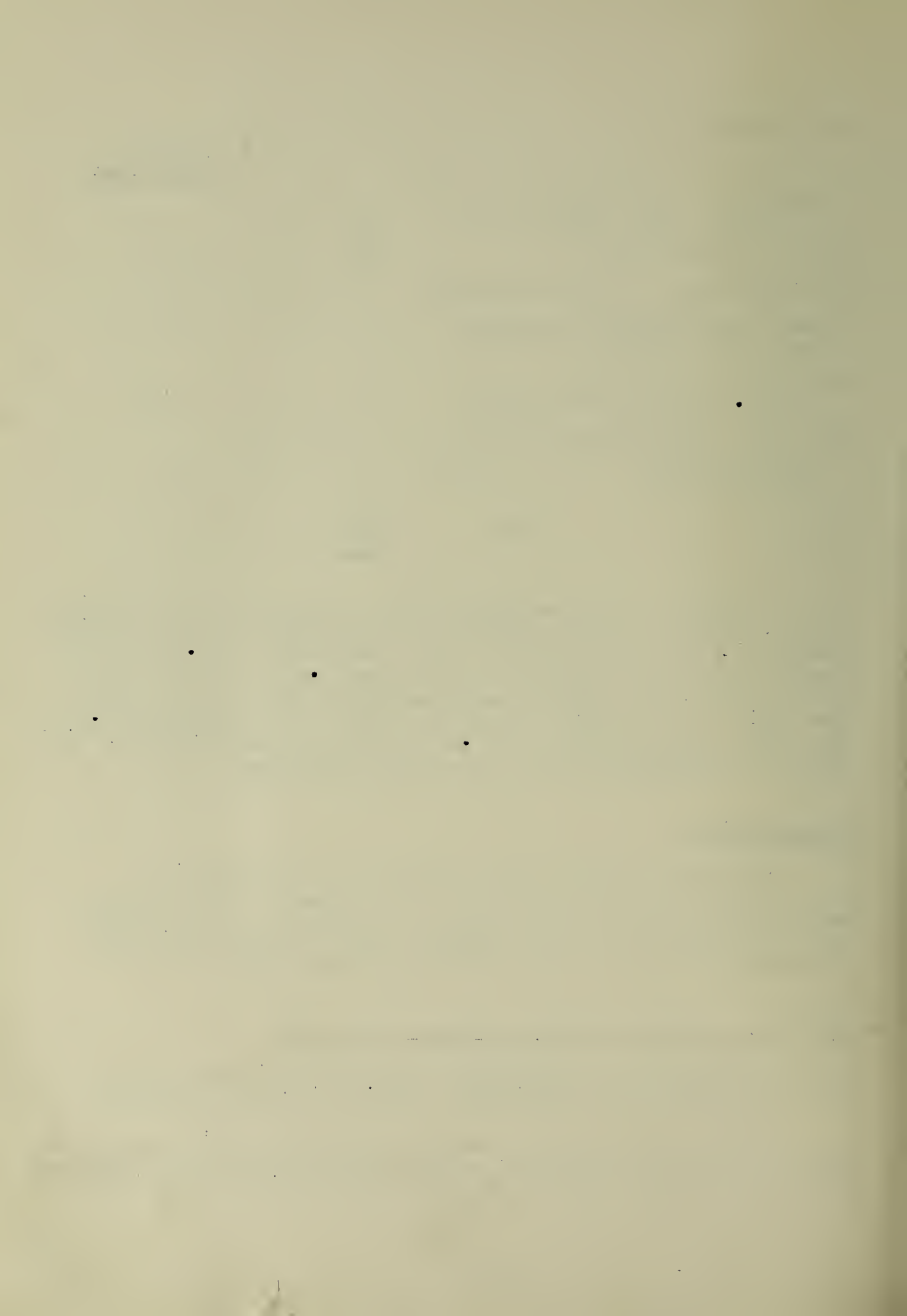
#### Overcrowding.

Only two families were known to be Statutorily Overcrowded and both lived in unfit houses. One family was housed by the Council when a Closing Order was placed on their house, the other family found suitable private accommodation when their house was demolished.

#### Part II. Housing Repairs & Rents Act, 1954

There were no applications for Certificates of Disrepair where a landlord had claimed a repairs increase in rent.

Three certificates issued in 1954 were still outstanding at the end of the year as the landlord had not completed all the necessary work to obtain a Revocation Certificate.



## General.

56 Council Dwellings and 36 Private Dwellings were completed and occupied during the year, there now being approximately 2,500 dwellings in the Borough.

66 inspections, 46 re-inspections and 58 other visits were made in connection with the Housing Acts.

## FACTORIES and OUTWORKERS.

25 inspections were made of premises registered as factories and 4 inspections were made of premises at which outwork is carried on. Informal action was taken in one case where a non-power factory was in a dirty and dilapidated condition, and in 2 cases where sanitary conveniences at power factories were not properly lighted or were not properly maintained.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of, and as required by the Factories Act, is appended.

## SHOPS ACT, 1950.

18 inspections of shops were made specifically under this Act to enforce the provisions relating to the temperature, ventilation and provision of sanitary conveniences in shops.

Two informal notices were served, one to provide a sanitary convenience for employees and the other to provide an additional convenience in order that there was separate accommodation for employees of opposite sexes.





## PET ANIMALS ACT, 1950.

Two shops continued to be licensed as Pet Shops and a stall in the weekly market was licensed and used as such for a few weeks. An inspector of the R.S.P.C.A. is an authorised officer for the purpose of this Act.

## FOOD PREMISES, MILK, DAIRIES and FOOD INSPECTION.

### Food Premises.

There are 89 food premises and an average of 10 food vehicles and stalls operating in the Borough. The types are as follows :-

Ice-cream manufacturer .. .. .	1
Restaurants and Cafes .. .. .	7
School and factory Canteens .. .. .	6
Hotels and Public Houses .. .. .	25
Butchers .. .. .	6
Bakehouses .. .. .	3
Bakers and Confectioners shops .. .. .	3
Wet Fish .. .. .	1
Wet and Fried Fish .. .. .	3
Fried Fish .. .. .	1
Grocers .. .. .	10
General stores (grocery, sweets, etc.) ..	12
Sweet Factory .. .. .	1
Sweet Shops .. .. .	7
Greengrocers .. .. .	3
Mobile butchers shops .. .. .	3
Fish Stalls .. .. .	1
Mobile Fish and Chip Fryers .. .. .	2
Sweet Stalls .. .. .	1
Mobile Grocers shop .. .. .	1
Grocery Stalls .. .. .	1
Fruit and Vegetable stalls .. .. .	4 (average)
Mobile greengrocers .. .. .	1

Of the above food premises 12 are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed,





pickled or preserved food. 22 premises are registered under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933, for the sale and storage of ice-cream or similar commodity, one ice-cream manufacturer is also registered.

58 inspections were made of registered premises and 90 inspections of other food premises.

All food traders were sent a copy of the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955, in an abbreviated and easily readable form, a covering letter drew attention to the more important requirements relevant to each type of trade. The Regulations have been received very well indeed and little difficulty has been experienced in obtaining various structural improvements that the Regulations require.

The provision of suitable washing accommodation was the most common improvement required at the various types of food premises this, together with the provision of hot and cold water supply, amounts to a large proportion of the total expenditure necessary on improvement of premises. The three mobile butcher's shops, fish stall, both mobile fish fryers, sweet stall and mobile grocers shop have portable wash basins with a supply of water at a suitable temperature, towels and soap.

Due to pressure of work it was not possible to visit all food premises during the year but the general standard of such premises can be classed as satisfactory in most cases.

At the invitation of a local school two talks were given to teen-aged school children on the work of a Public Health Inspector with particular reference to food hygiene.

#### Milk and Dairies.

There are three concerns retailing milk in the Borough and regular inspections were made and samples of milk taken. The types of milk sampled were as follows :-

	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.	3	Nil
Pasteurised Milk.	6	1
Sterilised Milk.	3	Nil
Ungraded Milk.	6	Nil



One retailer also holds a licence to pasteurise milk and regular samples of such milk are taken at the premises by the Essex County Council.

The unsatisfactory sample of pasteurised milk was pasteurised outside the Borough and did not comply with the phosphatase test, the purpose of which is to indicate the efficiency of pasteurisation. The County Health Officer for the area in which the pasteurising premises are situated was notified and as a result a fault was traced in the pasteurising plant and rectified.

All other samples complied with the prescribed tests or were otherwise satisfactory.

#### Ice-cream Samples and Ice-cream Premises.

Bacteriological sampling was confined generally to the local product and results were as follows .-

	<u>Grade I</u>	<u>Grade II.</u>	<u>Grade III.</u>	<u>Grade IV.</u>
Ice-cream manufacturer	16	12	4	2
Ice-cream retailers	1	2	-	-
(ice-cream produced outside the Borough)				

The results obtained from the local product fall just short of the standard suggested by the Public Health Laboratory Service for samples taken over a period of several months. On each occasion that Grades III or IV were reported the manufacturer's plant and process was checked in detail but without any major fault being found. The manufacturer has been most co-operative and is only too willing to take all steps possible to ensure that a high grade ice-cream is produced. The method of heat treatment of the ice-cream mix is more stringent than that required by the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947-1952, and the fault does not lie in this direction.

As in previous years the temperature of all ice-cream samples was checked by a certified thermometer to ensure that the storage temperature did not exceed 28°F. as prescribed by Regulation.



## Food Inspection.

On 47 occasions my opinion was sought and given as to the fitness of various foods, invariably the food was surrendered and destroyed as being unfit for human consumption. The unfit food was collected by arrangement with a pig and poultry keeper who processed it for feeding to his stock.

The types and amounts of food surrendered were as follows :-

<u>Tinned Food.</u>		<u>Other Food.</u>	
Fruit	276 lbs.	Wet Fish	820 lbs.
Meat	259 lbs.	Smoked Fish	308 lbs.
Vegetables	235 lbs.	Fresh Meat	128 lbs.
Milk	167 pints (equivalent)	Crabs	70 lbs.
Fish	34 lbs.	Bacon	62 lbs.
Preserves	29 lbs.	Shellfish	30 lbs.
Fruit Pulp	7 gallons.	Frozen Offal	20 lbs.
Cream	2 lbs.	Cheese	10 lbs.

The rejection of the tinned food was due to the usual causes of bacterial or chemical action or, in many cases, bad handling and damage.

The other foods were generally in a state of decomposition, the various types of fish had reached this condition due to delay in transit from the ports and close or hot weather conditions.

## MEAT INSPECTION.

It was expected that the numbers of animals slaughtered for food in the Borough would continue much the same as for 1955 which was the first full year of private slaughtering, in actual fact the number of cattle and pigs slaughtered increased by 47% and 51% respectively. Comparative figures





are as follows :-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1953. (M.o.F. Control).	1115	2004	2962	327	6408
1954. (M.o.F. Control & part private).	760	2228	2180	210	5378
1955. (Full year private slaughtering).	475	1724	704	40	2943
1956.	627	2616	544	36	3823

The work of meat inspection continued to be the duty by which most of my time was taken and included some work outside normal working hours. The importance of meat inspection will be realised when it is known that 29% of the cattle and 10% of the pigs inspected had a part or parts of meat and offal rejected as unfit for human consumption.

The incidence of tuberculosis in cattle showed a further decline and is without doubt due to the tuberculosis eradication scheme. On the other hand cysticercus bovis was found in six cattle and this condition is known to have become more prevalent of recent years, as has the presence in humans of the tape-worm, Taenia saginata. The cyst is comparatively small and varies in size from a pin head to about two-fifths of an inch in length and is found in the muscle. The predilection sites are the masseter muscles of the head, the heart and the diaphragm, it is for this reason that these parts of the animal are incised for examination and the detection of the cyst. Should an active cyst be consumed by a human being the cyst can develop in the small intestine to form a tape-worm some 10 to 25 feet in length.

It would appear that beef should be well cooked to avoid human infection as the cyst will be destroyed at temperatures of 135° F. and above. Fortunately with the present day demand for the smaller beef joints this



temperature should normally be reached in the centre of the meat as well as at the surface.

Where cysticercus bovis was found enquiries were made to endeavour to trace the movements of the animal in an attempt to find the source of infection, results were very discouraging as the animal had often passed through many hands.

Comparative amounts of meat and offal rejected were as follows :-

1953.	9 tons.	1 cwt.	3 qrs.	24 lbs.
1954.	5 tons.	15 cwts.	2 qrs.	20 lbs.
1955.	1 ton.	16 cwts.	0 qrs.	5 lbs.
1956.	2 tons.	4 cwts.	2 qrs.	9 lbs.

Rejected materials were disposed of to a chemical firm for reduction into fertilisers, etc.

I append a tabular statement of animals slaughtered.

The two private slaughterhouses continued in use and were maintained and conducted in a reasonable manner. The deadweight certification of pigs on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was carried out as before.

It is pleasing to report once again that a hundred per cent meat inspection was maintained.



## PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The work of rodent control under this Act was carried out by one full-time operator as before.

In the company of the rodent operator a survey of farm premises was made for the presence of rats. These premises were much better than anticipated and infestations were comparatively minor, most farmers have service contracts with various concerns for rodent control.

One sewer treatment was carried out in May by Council employees when a moderate infestation was found to exist. An extensive sewer treatment was carried out in November by the Rodent Research Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food who were experimenting with the use of a new poison and different methods of baiting to the usual. Results were very encouraging and approached almost a 100% destruction of rats in the Town Sewers.

At each sewer treatment the Slade passing under the Town was also treated. Due to the very many drainage connections entering the Slade of which the majority appear disused, it is considered that some connection is made with the sewerage system and that the Slade should be regarded as part of the sewerage system for the purpose of rodent control.

The frequency of above-ground infestations continued much as before, some 256 infestations by which 405 premises were affected being recorded. The Councils' refuse tip continued to be infested with rats and although large numbers of rats were destroyed by various methods the infestation still remains high.

The work of rodent control can be discouraging when the frequency of infestations continue year by year with little improvement, particularly when the Council are fortunate enough to have a very efficient and enthusiastic operative. On the other hand, the conditions that would prevail without proper control of these vermin with their high breeding rate can easily be realised.





## SMOKE ABATEMENT.

The pollution of the air by smoke and other emissions is a minor problem compared with the more industrialised areas. There are four factory chimneys in the Borough which may cause atmospheric pollution and in a Town of this size can be observed for smoke emissions nearly every day. Of the four chimneys two have been troublesome during the year and several warnings were given. Invariably the cause has been due to faulty stoking and insufficient regard to the control of air to the furnaces.

The trade of stoker is regarded by many as unskilled employment but this is not so. A properly trained man who feeds and controls the furnaces carefully and intelligently can do much to reduce atmospheric pollution. Perhaps of equal importance to the employer is that a trained employee could save fuel and reduce costs as excessive smoke emission usually indicates the incomplete combustion of the fuel, thus wasting energy and money.

The Clean Air Act, 1956, will do much to control atmospheric pollution and the powers provided will strengthen the position of the Council.





## HOUSING APPLICATIONS and TENANCIES.

The number of new applications for Council accommodation was 72 as compared with 86 in the previous year.

A summary of the applications outstanding at the end of the year is as follows.

Applications from :

Single persons .. .. .	5
Single elderly persons .. .. .	21
Married elderly couples .. .. .	16
Married couples with :	
No children .. .. .	51
One child . .. .. .	45
Two children (same sex) .. .. .	17
Two children (opposite sex) .. .. .	5
Three children (same sex) . .. .. .	6
Three children (opposite sex) .. .. .	5
Five children (opposite sex) .. .. .	1
	<hr/>
TOTAL Applicants	172
	<hr/>

1956 was a very good year for the housing of applicants and families affected by Slum Clearance. 56 new houses and flats were occupied for the first time and 34 were re-let, of the 90 families moving to Council accommodation 20 transferred from other Council accommodation.

My work as Housing Officer continued to increase as beside enquiry into the circumstances and conditions of housing applicants and reporting to the Housing Committee, various matters concerning Council tenants were dealt with. A few of these duties are as follows :-

- 1 Inspection of accommodation prior to vacation and informing the Borough Surveyor of repairs and decorations considered necessary.



2. The inspection of accommodation regarding compliance with the tenancy agreement, particularly with regard to dirty conditions.
3. The examination and consent or otherwise to applications for lodgers and other persons to live in Council houses.
4. The preparation of tenancy agreements, receipts, etc., and the issue of keys.
5. Enquiries into requests for transfer to other accommodation.

A large proportion of my time in the office is also taken up by answering housing enquiries.

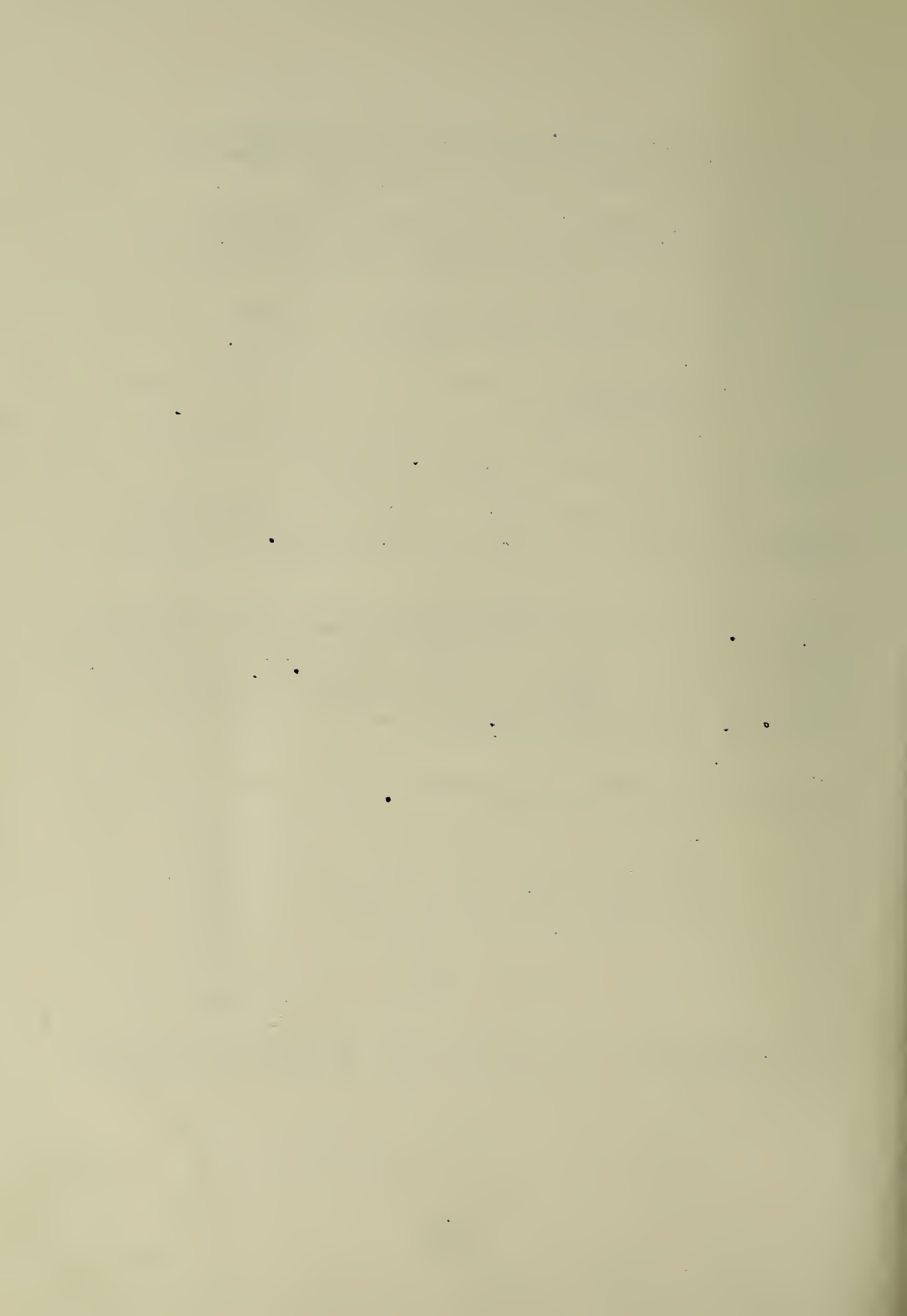
84 visits were made in connection with housing applications and 158 visits regarding matters affecting Council tenants.

Several Council houses were visited as they were believed to be in a dirty condition and, where justified, the tenant was warned and given opportunity to rectify the condition of the house. Further visits were made and in most cases the conditions were improved, in only a few instances was it necessary to report to the Council for authority to take other action.

Council owned accommodation at the end of the year consisted of the following :-

Pre-war houses and flats	178
Pre-fabricated Arcon bungalows	20
Post-war houses and flats	<u>418</u>
TOTAL	<u><u>616</u></u>

There were also 18 flats for elderly persons under construction.



# SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION.

## INSPECTIONS and VISITS.

### A. Public Health.

Nuisances	..	..	..	..	..	46
Public Health Act	..	..	..	..	..	155
Re-visits	..	..	..	..	..	127
Moveable Dwellings	.	..	..	..	..	18
Filthy and/or verminous dwellings				..	..	3
Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	18
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	25
Outworkers	..	..	..	..	..	4
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	..	85

### B. Housing.

Housing Acts	..	..	..	..	..	66
Re-visits	..	..	..	..	..	46
Miscellaneous Visits	..	..	..	..	..	58
Enquiries into applications for Council Houses				..	..	84
Council House Tenancies	..	..	..	..	..	158

### C. Infectious Disease.

Enquiries into cases	..	..	..	..	..	13
Disinfections carried out	..	..	..	..	..	5

### D. Meat Inspection.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	504
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### E. Food Premises and Food Hygiene.

Food Surrender	..	..	..	..	..	47
Registered Premises	..	..	..	..	..	58
Dairies and milk distributors	.	..	..	..	..	16
Other Food Premises	..	..	..	..	..	62
Food Stalls and vehicles	..	..	..	..	..	28

### F. Miscellaneous.

Rag, Flock Act	..	..	..	..	..	2
Rodent Control	..	..	..	..	..	88
Pet Animals Act	..	..	..	..	..	1

TOTAL INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

1717





DEFECTS REMEDIED and NUISANCES ABATED.

(Does not include Shops, Factories or Food Premises).

General.

Accumulations removed	..	..	..	1
Dustbins supplied or renewed	..	..		4
Nuisances from animals abated	..	..		1
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	..	..		3

Drainage.

Drains repaired or improved	..	..		4
Obstructed drains cleared	..	..	..	1
Water-closets repaired or improved		..		12
Flushing apparatus provided	..	..	..	2
Sinks provided	..	..	..	1
Sinks renewed	..	..	..	2

Water Supply.

Supplies re-instated	..	..	..	..	1
Mains supply provided to houses	..	..			4

Repairs to Dwellinghouses.

Chimneys re-constructed	..	..	..		1
External brickwork and rendering					
repaired - houses	..	..	..	..	9
Roofs repaired	..	..	..	..	15
Rainwater pipes and gutters repaired					
or renewed	..	..	..	..	18
Floors repaired - rooms	..	..	..	..	11
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired - rooms					14
Dampness remedied - rooms	..	..	..		15
Doors and windows repaired or renewed	..				25
Lighting and ventilation improved - rooms					4
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	..	..			7
Staircases repaired	..	..	..	..	3
Food stores provided	..	..	..	..	3



FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act 1937.

Part I of the Act.

. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
1) Factories in which Sect. 2, 3, 4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authority.	2	4	1	-
2) Factories not included in (1) in which Sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	49	21	1	-
3) Other Premises in which Sect 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises).	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	51	25	2	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
nt of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	-	-	-
ercrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
reasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
adequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
effective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
nitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective.	2	3	-	1	-
c) Not separate for sexes.	-	-	-	-	-
her offences not including offences relating to Outwork.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	3	4	-	1	-



Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111)

Section 110.

No. of out-workers in August  
list required by Sect.110 (1)(c)

No. of cases of default in  
sending lists to the Council.

No. of prosecutions for  
failure to supply lists.

Section 111.

No. of instances of work in  
unwholesome premises.

Notices served.

Prosecutions.

TOTAL

Nature of Work.	
Wearing Apparel.	
Making etc.	Cleaning & washing.
8	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
8	-



MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	625	2	36	544	2616	Nil
Number inspected	625	2	36	544	2616	Nil
<u>All diseases and conditions except Tuberculosis &amp; Cysticerchi.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	1	3	1	10	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	153	Nil	1	5	219	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	24.5%	-	11.1%	1.1%	8.7%	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	21	Nil	Nil	Nil	37	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	3.4%	-	-	-	1.4%	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and Totally condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil



